

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 271356
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 271356

NODIS

FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT GUATEMALA 6977 SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC 11 NOV 77

QUOTE S E C R E T GUATEMALA 6977

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GT, UK, GH

SUBJECT: BELIZEAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 269572

1. UK CONSUL MCQUILLAN CAME TO SEE ME AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 10.
AFTER BRIEFING ME IN GENERAL TERMS ON PRICE'S CONVERSATIONS
IN LONDON DESCRIBED REFTEL, HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD
BEEN QUERIED BY LONDON AS TO WHAT HIS ASSESSMENT WAS ON THE
LIKELY OUTCOME OF GUATEMALA'S ELECTIONS AND WHAT THE RELATIVE
POSITIONS OF THE THREE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON BELIZE
WOULD BE. HE HAD REPLIED TO LONDON THAT, ALTHOUGH THE RACE
WAS STILL OPEN, GENERAL LUCAS WAS THE LIKELY WINNER GIVEN
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PAGE 02 STATE 271356

THE FACT THAT HE SEEMED TO HAVE OFFICIAL BACKING. ON
BELIZE, PERALTA MENDEZ WOULD BE THE MOST REASONABLE WITH
GENERAL LUCAS A GOOD DEAL FURTHER BEHIND AND PERALTA AZURDIA
THE MOST DIFFICULT FROM HMG'S POINT OF VIEW (MCQUILLAN ADDED
CAVEAT THAT IF VILLAGRAN KRAMER WERE LUCAS'S VICE PRESIDENT
THEN LUCAS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY MORE AMENABLE TO
A BELIZE SETTLEMENT). HE SAID LONDON HAD THEREUPON

ASKED HIM TO CHECK THIS ASSESSMENT WITH USG.

2. I REPLIED THAT WE HAD NOT MADE ANY ASSESSMENT PER SE ON SUBJECT BUT THAT I THOUGHT WE WOULD AGREE IN GENERAL WITH HIS EVALUTION. I NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN IF PERALTA MENDEZ WERE BETTER DISPOSED ON BELIZE ISSUE THAN OTHERS, HE WOULD HAVE THE MOST DIFFICUTY IN SELLING ANY AGREEMENT. I CONCLUDED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT WAS THAT A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WOULD BE FAR EASIER TO ACHIEVE UNDER LAUGERUD THAN IN THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION WHICHEVER OF THE THREE CANDIDATES BECAME PRESIDENT. THIS WAS THE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION I EMPHASIZED AND IT WAS CERTAINLY THE STRONG HELD VIEW OF THE USG. MCQUILLAN SAID HE WOULD SO REPORT TO LONDON.

E. ABOVE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE BEFORE RECEIPT REFTEL. MCQUILLAN DID NOT REFER TO PRICE'S COMMENTS DESCRIBED PARAGRAPH 2 REFTEL, BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THEY PRECIPITATED LONDON'S INSTRUCTIONS TO HIM.

AANDREWS

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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